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City government by commission and the advocacy of the reduction of elective officers in state government are notable examples.

To appreciate fully the value of the book a thorough knowledge of French life would be necessary. But even to the ordinary reader it is full of stimulus and suggestion in that it shows the way in which the intimate life and character of a people lie at the basis of its peculiar political and social problems.

JAMES G. STEVENS.

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FLEXNER, BERNARD AND BALDWIN, ROGER N. *Juvenile Courts and Probation.*

Pp. xii, 308. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Century Company, 1914.

Few matters of public policy have assumed so quickly a place of importance in popular thinking as that of the juvenile court since its organization in Chicago in July, 1899. The movement spread rapidly in this country and in Europe and developed a great diversity both as to concepts and as to methods of administration. Efforts to standardize procedure have made slow progress. The reason for this has been a diversity both of ideals and of conditions in different states and countries. The literature which the movement has produced has been, in the main, fragmentary and has dealt with specific aspects of the subject. In the present volume, the authors have attempted for the first time a thoroughgoing intensive study and statement of the whole subject in concise form and have produced a text-book of the juvenile court and its necessary accompaniment, probation. Beginning with Part I we have a short history of the juvenile court movement together with a discussion of its underlying principles. Part II deals with a detailed and analytical analysis of the organization and procedure of the court throughout the United States. In addition we have the best concurrent opinion of what an ideal procedure should be. Part III considers probation in the same manner, giving valuable suggestions as to the best methods of organizing and conducting probation. Part IV criticises methods and statistics, emphasizing the value of both in securing adequate results. In Part V many pages of sample forms are presented with criticisms and suggestions. The appendix contains drafts of laws and rules representing the best examples of procedure so far incorporated in the codes of the various states, and finally a lengthy selected reference list of the most valuable sources of information. The volume is the report of the special committee on Juvenile Courts and their Administration appointed by the National Probation Association, and is endorsed by the entire committee consisting of Bernard Flexner, Roger Baldwin, Ben B. Lindsey, Julian W. Mack, Julia C. Lathrop, Homer Folks, Maud E. Miner, Edwin Mulready and Arthur W. Towne.

The book should be accessible to every social student and social worker, whose interest in any way touches this important subject.

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FREEMAN, ARNOLD. *Boy Life and Labour.* Pp. xiii, 252. Price, 3s. 6p. London: P. S. King and Son, 1914.

This volume is the result of a year of intensive investigation into the lives of seventy-one working-class boys of the city of Birmingham, England. The

author selected from the files of the local Juvenile Labor Exchange every boy in his seventeenth year who had had four or more jobs since he left school. While this method of selecting his cases for intensive study excluded the "superior" boy who tends to remain in one job or changes but rarely, the author believes that the large majority of the boys selected are typical of the mass of uneducated boy labor in Birmingham. The boys studied divided themselves into three groups: Class I, those who had emerged into positions where they were beginning to learn skilled work or its equivalent, after drifting about and doing unskilled work for three years (6 boys); Class II, those who were still doing unskilled work and of whom the author assumes that they would continue to do unskilled work in adult life (44 boys); Class III, those who were still doing unskilled work but appeared to be destined for unemployableness in later life (21 boys). The author gives a summary of the home background of each boy and reaches the conclusion that the relative failure of them all is due mainly to such environing factors as home, factory, picture palace, music halls and cheap literature.

The rôle assigned to heredity is dismissed in several pages of discussion, and the author's case for it is not convincing. It is unfortunate that in presenting this factor the author should have cited the shape of the skull as due solely to heredity (see p. 80) thereby ignoring the results of the researches of Professor Boas in this field, and should further argue that intelligence is almost synonymous with shape and size of the brain. It is the opinion of the reviewer that whatever the rôle of heredity, the miserable home conditions pictured, the amount of under-nutrition and the degrading social conditions generally obtaining among many of the families were alone sufficient to explain the high percentage of inefficiency among the boys studied.

In seeking a remedy for this "manufacture of inefficiency" the author looks not to the errors of schooling but to the abrupt termination of education at the age of fourteen and the entire neglect of society of the development of the boy during the adolescent period which is that most fraught with weal or woe for the future of the individual concerned. In the words of Mr. Freeman, "We have to devote ourselves, therefore, to an examination of the social and industrial environment through which the adolescent is condemned to pass. As we do so, we shall discover why it is that the bright, promising school lad becomes the dull, incapable adult" (p. 108). The author suggests the following remedies: first, the statutory reduction of the hours of juvenile labor which he holds is the fundamental remedy on which all others depend; second, compulsory continued education of such a sort as to fit the lad for the threefold rôle of efficient worker, efficient citizen and efficient husband and father. Supplementary remedies include increased coöperation between the boy and the employer and between the school and the home. Mr. Freeman writes well and as one having a message. His conclusions appeal so strongly to common sense and tally so accurately with common observation that one wonders whether the author need have devoted so much space to the life histories of his seventy-one cases, especially in view of the fact that the small number of cases studied invalidates their use for statistical purposes.

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